

**REMARKS**

Entry of the foregoing amendment is respectfully requested. No new matter has been introduced by way of the claim amendments or additions.

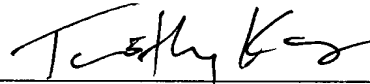
The Examiner is respectfully requested to consider this preliminary amendment prior to examination of the above-identified application. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference with the undersigned would assist in resolving any issues pertaining to the allowability of the above-identified application, please contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below. Please charge any fees due in connection with this request to deposit account no. 08-2025.

Respectfully submitted,

Chandrakant D. Patel et al.

Dated: October 31, 2003

By



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